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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: OXCART Charts

This document contains information
referring to Project OXCART

On 4 June 1962 [redacted] met with Mr. Thomas Finnie, Technical Director, ACIC, for exploratory conversations on the matter of OXCART briefing and planning charts. The meeting was held in the office of Colonel Alan M. Eldridge, Ret., AFMIA P, Pentagon. Colonel Eldridge was not present during the meeting. Mr. Finnie is cleared for CORONA and ARGON.

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2. Mr. Finnie advised, when the subject of briefing maps was broached, that ACIC was currently working on companion charts to the Aerospace Chart (ASC-1, currently being used in the CORONA Project). It was generally agreed that a chart of the same scale (1:9,000,000), covering the North American land mass, along with the present ASC 1 (covering the Eurasian land mass) would satisfy [redacted] requirement for a 7 x 7 briefing map. Mr. Finnie stated our requirement would give added impetus to the production of the ASC series charts.

25X1

3. In response to [redacted] query on cockpit "gadgets" to handle route charts for the pilot, Mr. Finnie advised that ACIC has a department devoted to research and development in this area. He cited the instance of the F 106's crossing the country several years ago without looking out of the cockpit, relying instead on a moving strip map gearing to a pre-programmed flight plan. The equipment used in the F 106's was developed by ACIC.

25X1

4. Since Mr. Finnie does not have an OXCART clearance, he could not be given a complete picture on OXCART navigational chart requirements. For that matter, until the problem of mapping for the A 12 comes more clearly into focus, the OXCART Program itself is somewhat in the dark on requirements. It is felt, however, that when Mr. Finnie and the Commander of ACIC are given an OXCART briefing, the cartograph inputs will greatly assist in defining chart requirements.

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5. Mr. Finnie explained briefly the time required for development and production of a new chart. He cited, as an example, production of a "brand new" JN chart, from scratch, takes two years. This is based on normal, routine work schedules. Around the clock, seven days a week work schedule compresses the times considerably. [] asked about the possibility of getting JN charts, minus grid overlays and other extraneous information. Mr. Finnie thought this would be only a mechanical problem that could be solved by elimination of one or more plates in the printing process.

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6. Mr. Finnie advised he was taking a three-week leave, terminating on 2 July, after which he would be free to come to Washington for an OXCART briefing. He urged that [] (and others) come to ACIC in St. Louis and go through the facility for a two-day period. He also urged that Colonel Eldridge, in whose office the meeting was held, also be briefed because Colonel Eldridge is the channel through whom requirements are directed to ACIC.

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